

APHRODISIAS 2017

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SEASON



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Aphrodisias was kind to archaeological research in 2017: there was an abundance of exciting discoveries. The main focus of fieldwork was on completing the *Mica and Ahmet Ertegun South Agora Pool Project*, on the Tetrapylon Street, and on a new restoration project in the Civil Basilica. Our research team worked from 28 June to 31 August, and our site conservation team from 23 May to 20 September. There were some fifty-five of us – archaeologists, architects, conservators, epigraphists, static engineers, restorers, surveyors, photographers, draftsmen, and numismatists, both senior staff and graduate students from Turkey, the UK, and the US. One hundred and ten local workers were employed in excavation and site conservation. The government representative was Tarık Güçlütürk (Istanbul Archaeological Museum).

At the start of the season, Aphrodisias was formally inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site at the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Krakow, Poland, on 10 July 2017.

1. SOUTH AGORA (Figs. 1-37)

Excavation was concentrated in the South Agora and on the Tetrapylon Street (Fig. 1). These two projects are connected parts of a plan to create a visitor route through the centre of Aphrodisias, from the Street to the South Agora and Hadrianic Baths (Figs. 2-3). Major sponsorship for both projects has come from Mica Ertegun, the Friends of Aphrodisias Trust in London, the Headley Trust, the Augustus Foundation, and the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation.

Parts of the South Agora pool, at its east and west ends, had been excavated by Kenan Erim in the 1980s. After a detailed survey of the water system of the pool in 2011 and test trenches in 2012, a five-year project to excavate the pool fully – *The Mica and Ahmet Ertegun South Agora Pool Project* – was begun in 2013 and completed as planned in 2017. The excavation this year was supervised by Andrew Wilson, Ine Jacobs, Ben Russell, and Allison Kidd with Alis Altinel, Eda Doğa Aras, Yağmur Başaran, Doğu Coşar, Mariam Farooqi, Katherine Halcrow, Jella Karademir, Hannah Simon, and Anja Schwarz.

Work in 2017 completed the excavation of the pool and its overlying medieval levels, from Classical Ottoman times to the late antique period which is seen in the repaired pool floor (Fig. 4). One large trench (SAG 17.1) was laid out across the central and eastern part of the pool as a direct continuation of Trench 16.1 from 2016; and a smaller trench (SAG 17.2) continued and completed a trench started in 2012 (SAG 12.1) located in the western part of the pool on its north side. Excavated earth was removed using steel ramps (Fig. 5), and the total surface area worked was c. 1,700 m². In addition to a series of walls and rubble deposits within the pool, the documentation of forty-four coins, 466 small finds, and 1461 marble fragments provided evidence for the settlement of late antique, Byzantine, and medieval Aphrodisias.

Late antique. While the pool itself is a first-century structure, much of what we see now dates to the late fifth or early sixth century when the whole South Agora complex was extensively repaired, apparently after a major earthquake that struck the city shortly before AD 500. The pool walls were repaired at this time, often with spolia from elsewhere on the site, and the ground level around the pool was raised. The floor of the pool consists of a substrate of large flat stones laid in mud, covered with a layer of smaller stones set in a friable mortar, and then surfaced by a layer of waterproof mortar (Figs. 4 and 6). The floor was found to be much damaged. The mortar layer survived mainly in the centre of the pool, having been lost towards the ends. The floor showed extensive evidence of ancient repair, again datable to the late fifth or early sixth century reconstruction.

North side of pool in early seventh century. Along the north side of the pool a major rubble deposit was exposed lying directly on the pool floor, and filling a gap where the floor was missing. The rubble dump contained more than four and half tonnes of roof tiles, a similar quantity of building stone, and a substantial quantity of carved architectural elements (Fig. 7). Much of this material, especially the roof tiles, showed signs of burning, and there were considerable quantities of charcoal in the soil. Many of the broken architectural elements were also burnt on one or more of their faces. Wood, in the form of planks, rafters and poles, many with signs of burning, was recovered from both this rubble deposit and from the alluvial build up across the rest of the pool (Fig. 17). Additional organic remains include several pinecones and peach stones. The early rubble deposit also contained several important sculptural finds, described more fully below (Figs. 29-34): part of a first-century male portrait head (inv. 17-33), a third-century male portrait head, found in two parts (inv. 17-53 and 17-112); and an early fifth-century bearded male portrait head (inv. 17-59).

A total of eighteen fragments of Corinthian pilaster capitals decorated with Erotes were recovered from the same rubble deposit, along with more than thirty crates of polychrome marble revetment, flat and moulded, all of which seems to come from the back wall of the north stoa (Figs. 18-20). A wide range of metal objects was also found here and scattered across the pool floor in the lowest silt layers. The bulk of these metal finds comprised nails, wall revetment pins, knife blades, and an array of projectile weapons (arrowheads, javelin-heads, and spear-heads) (Fig. 8). A silver medallion (inv. 17-108), a lead seal with cruciform monograms on both sides (inv. 17-94), and a series of nine folded lead sheets also came from this layer (Figs. 14-16).

This extensive dump on the north side of the pool seems to have been the result of a deliberate clean-up of the surrounding area following considerable damage to the adjacent stoa's roof and wall revetment. The material was thrown into the pool which was thereafter no longer maintained. A date for this deposit in the early seventh-century is suggested by its contents and by the latest coin found, a coin of Heraclius of c. 610-617. Good evidence, notably on the Tetrapylon Street, attests an earthquake in c. 617, and this date would fit well with the material found in the pool this year.

Interpretation of early seventh century layers. The substantial number of projectile weapons found at the bottom of the pool and in the clean-up deposit could also provide some context for the burnt material found. In 615, a Persian army passed along the Meander valley, raiding a number of cities in the area. The burning now attested at different points in the city at this date may be connected to these Persian raids, though natural disaster cannot be excluded either. Aphrodisias in any case seems to have suffered badly early in the reign of Heraclius, after which its public architecture was no longer maintained. In spite of the damage to the north stoa, most of its columns remained standing without a roof until at least the eleventh century, when they collapsed as a result of another earthquake.

South side of pool in seventh to eleventh centuries. The central and southern parts of the pool floor were covered by an alluvial deposit that represents the pool's primary silting. On the south side, a scatter of tiles and building stone, found close to the pool wall, fell on a 10cm-deep accumulation of silt on the pool floor and seems to result from later clean-up activity along the south side of the South Agora, probably at some point between the seventh and tenth centuries. To the west of the pool's centre, this deposit also produced important finds: a female head of a divinity (inv. 17-60), an early sixth-century male portrait head (inv. 17-70), and a part of the tail from a blue-grey marble horse (inv. 17-36) (Figs. 34-35).

Silting of pool in seventh to eleventh centuries. Later dumps of rubble, the result of clean-up operations after an eleventh-century earthquake, were spread across the whole area of the trench and were covered by a thick silty alluvial deposit. This deposit represented sedimentation within the pool after it went out of use. It contained no major structures and was largely sterile; snail species from this deposit indicate that the area was

waterlogged and swampy, and the lack of finds suggests that the surrounding area of the South Agora was not much occupied between the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

Walls over the pool in eleventh to twelfth centuries. The first medieval walls in the pool were built on the accumulated silt belonging to the period described above. There were two walls running parallel to each other roughly east-west across the central and southern sector of the pool. The southern wall is the earliest of its kind in the pool, and one of the earliest and largest medieval features. At the west end of the trench on the south side of the pool, further rubble deposits were documented. They contained a high concentration of broken architectural fragments, paving slabs, moulded screen panels, and two inscribed fragments from Diocletian's Edict on Maximum Prices (inv. 17-32 and 17-40) (Fig. 52), all once part of the Civil Basilica. Notable other finds documented in these layers include a ceramic die, three arrowheads, and a Byzantine reliquary cross (Fig. 10).

Beylik and Classical Ottoman periods: thirteenth to seventeenth centuries. The latest structures excavated in 2017 were field walls dating to the Classical Ottoman period. These walls match the pattern of those documented in 2015 and 2016 across the whole of the filled-in pool area. They extended to great lengths (more than 24 m), often ran parallel to each other, and probably once formed the edges of trackways and boundaries between fields or orchards.

Documentation. A new hand-drawn state plan was made of the south stoa (Jacob Anderson), and the state plan of the pool perimeter with its marble seating and extensive inscribed board games and graffiti was completed (Lauren Aquilar, Kirk Webb) (Fig. 9A). A new digital state plan of the South Agora was generated from drone pictures, and the complete range of finds was photographed (Defne Gier).

Finds. The several layers of rubble debris of the seventh to twelfth centuries dumped into the pool after it had gone out of use as a functioning water feature produced an extraordinary abundance of varied finds that add detailed texture to the archaeology and history of the South Agora complex. The range of materials and artefacts is impressive: pottery, stamped unguentaria, lamps, roof tiles, wooden planks and beams, building stone, marble architectural components, marble statuary, marble inscriptions, bronze coins, a bronze reliquary cross, lead tablets, a lead seal, a silver pendant, gold-glass ornaments, and a variety of iron weapons, bronze nails, wall revetment pins, and knife blades (Figs. 10-35).

Bronze, glass, lead, silver. Some of these finds may be mentioned in more detail. The bronze reliquary cross from the pool (inv. 17-34) (Fig. 10) may be compared to a similar cross with a striking frontal *orans* figure engraved on it, which was newly conserved and its figure revealed in 2017 (inv. 17-95) (Fig. 11). Gold-glass pieces include a large oval ornament or pendant made of light brown glass with gold leaf sandwiched in an upper glass layer (inv. 17-88) (Fig. 12). Another glass pendant has a bronze clasp and casing (inv. 17-124) (Fig. 13). The double-sided early Byzantine silver pendant (inv. 17-108) (Fig. 14) of perhaps the sixth century shows on one side an equestrian saint riding down an evil she-demon (Gylou or Abyzou) sprawled on the ground in a remarkable unclassical style. The other side has an articulate composition with a central cross that is difficult to interpret. An important lead seal (inv. 17-94) of the later sixth or seventh century has a cross monogram on both sides of one *Theodorou metropolitou* (Fig. 15) – possibly the Bishop Theodore of Aphrodisias attested at the Sixth Ecumenical Council in 680. A series of nine folded lead sheets were perhaps amulets or curse tablets (Fig. 16).

Marble revetment. The thirty crates of marble revetment contain the remains of the decoration from the back wall of the north stoa (the 'Portico of Tiberius') (Fig. 20). The revetment system followed a clear pattern of pilasters and panels of coloured marble and used grey-speckled and streaked local white marble mixed with the following imported coloured stones: (1) alabasters from neighbouring Tripolis or Hierapolis, (2) various black and red 'Africano' marbles from Teos, and (3) pink 'Portasanta' marbles from Chios. The Portasanta was used for the pilasters which supported white Aphrodisian marble capitals with small central Eros figures – of which eighteen were found in fragments. The best preserved pilaster capital is inv. 17-29 (H: 32 cm) (Figs. 18-19). The

whole revetment decoration of the north stoa dates from the late first or early second century AD, when the same range of coloured marbles and techniques was being used in the Basilica and in the Hadrianic Baths. It is notable that the marbles are mainly local and from the eastern Aegean seaboard (Chios, Teos) and not from further afield.

Marble statuary. A wide range of figured marble statuary was found among the earliest rubble deposits on the pool floor on both the north and south sides (Figs. 21-35). There are several fragments of imperial-period marble portrait statuary: (1) a lifesize naked male torso (inv. 17-9, H: 32 cm) (Fig. 21), (2) part of a scroll-bundle statue support (inv. 17-13), and (3) a high-quality polished right foot wearing a Greek citizen sandal of the second century (inv. 17-61, L: 30) (Fig. 22). The figures of divinities included a battered under-lifesize female head with a separately-added top of head (inv. 17-60, H: 17 cm) (Fig. 23), and a striking fragment of the nose and upper lip from a mask of one of the South Agora mask-and-garland frieze blocks (inv. 17-48). Two unusual fragments are probably from late antique statues: a right hand holding a kantharos (inv. 17-67, H: 14 cm) (Fig. 24), and a hand holding an orb with two surviving narrow fingers – the orb is divided into quadrants and decorated with rosettes (inv. 17-59, H: 15 cm) (Fig. 25). Three unusual reliefs comprise: (1) a votive plaque with the eyes and brow of a face, worked all round and smooth on the back (inv. 17-63, W: 17 cm) (Fig. 26); (2) a fragment of a relief representing a pine tree (inv. 17-47, H: 29 cm) (Fig. 27); and (3) a fragment of relief carved from imported white marble with a sawn back and a high-quality and polished frontal head of an expressive beardless male figure (inv. 17-49, H: 25 cm) (Fig. 28); he has curling tufty hair sprouting from his head and is difficult to identify – perhaps he is a rustic divinity or a barbarian enemy.

Four marble portrait heads. The discovery of four high-quality male heads illustrates Aphrodisian portrait statuary, from its beginnings in the first century AD to its end in the sixth century. The first three heads were found in the earliest rubble debris on the north side of the pool towards its east end; the fourth is from the debris on the south side towards the west end of the pool (Fig. 29). They are: (1) the back of an early imperial male head (inv. 17-33, H: 34 cm) that joins the front of a Julio-Claudian male portrait face found nearby in 2016 (inv. 16-52) (Fig. 30A-B); the two parts were dowelled together (combined H: 36 cm). (2) A large bearded male portrait head with lank hair and thick moustache (inv. 17-53, H: 28), to which a fragment of the back right side of the head and ear found nearby belongs (inv. 17-112) – the two parts were attached (Figs. 7 and 31).

The third and fourth portraits are extraordinary finds of the late antique period. A complete male portrait head with beard and hairstyle of the Theodosian period (c. AD 400) was found face-up at the pool edge (inv. 17-59, H: 34.5 cm) (Figs. 32-33). It is in an excellent state of preservation: its nose is complete, and it has a short tenon for doweling the head into the shoulders of a draped statue. It also has a tiny covert inscription under the beard on the neck: XMG (letter H: 0.5-0.8 cm), short for *Christon Maria genna* ('Christ was born to Mary'). The same Christian inscription is found on other portraits of this period but usually inscribed on the top of the head. The new head was tried in the neck socket of a fragmentary togatus statue of the same date found nearby in the north stoa of the South Agora in 1985 (inv. 85-100). The trial showed that the head *could* belong but did not demonstrate that it must have done.

The fourth head is a lifesize male portrait with stubble beard, bald pate, and a Constantinopolitan 'mop' hairstyle of the early sixth century, found on the south side of the pool (inv. 17-70, H: 27.5 cm) (Fig. 34). The eyes of this portrait have the same 'raised-disk' pupils and the same hair technique as several high-quality portraits that belong to the very latest Aphrodisian statue production. They were probably the output of one highly-skilled workshop whose work is best known in the famous portrait statue of the governor and acting vicar Flavius Palmatus from the Tetrastoon in front of the Aphrodisias theatre.

Horse's tail. An important and engaging last find may be mentioned: the blue-grey marble fragment of a horse's tail (inv. 17-36, L: 37 cm) found on the south side of

the pool towards the west end of SAg 17.1, together with the broken base of a ceramic jar. The tail is broken at its lower end, and its upper end connects break to break with the rear of the blue-grey marble horse and group of Troilos and Achilles found in the Basilica in 1970 (inv. 70-569). The newly discovered tail was doweled to the horse (Figs. 35-37). It is an impressive piece of carving with long deep drill channels dividing strands of tail hair which are interrupted in an irregular scheme by perforated ‘bridges’. The tail was carved in one piece with the body of the horse – a bravura sculptural performance in a huge block of difficult local grey marble of not always the best quality.

2. TETRAPHYLON STREET (Figs. 38-43)

The Tetrasyon Street runs north-south from the Tetrasyon to the Theatre (Fig. 38). Its excavation, begun in 2008, is designed to investigate a key urban artery, to bring new information about late antique, Byzantine, Seljuk, and Ottoman Aphrodisias, and eventually to open part of it for visitors. Work in 2017 was concentrated to the south of the Sebasteion’s Propylon (SAve 17.1), supervised by Ine Jacobs, with Doğuş Coşar and Anja Schwarz. The street project is funded by the Headley Trust, the Friends of Aphrodisias Trust in London, the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation, and the British Institute at Ankara.

Trench SAve 17.1. In the part of the street immediately south of the Propylon of the Sebasteion (Fig. 39), the aim of the excavation is to connect the street with the back of the Agora Gate at the original Roman level. The specific aim of the 2017 trench was to excavate the post-Byzantine bath building discovered in 2016 in the western half of the trench and to uncover what remains of the late antique street in this area.

The oldest remains uncovered were a late antique wall running north-south on the east side of the street, parallel to the west wall of the Cryptoporticus House (Figs. 40-41). It was probably built to create a solid encasement that could carry an elevated walkway above the road. This walkway appears now as a cobbled stone surface with a water channel on its east side. The north-south wall may have supported the stylobate of the street colonnade in this part of its course. A fragment of mosaic with a geometric pattern was discovered at the south-east limit of the trench (Fig. 42).

The bath house, partly uncovered in 2016, was built over the western part of the trench, long after the collapse of the street colonnade. The full extent of the bath house remains unknown – as well as what kind of establishment, if any, it was part of. As exposed this year, the bath consists of four rooms and a *praefurnium* on its east side (Fig. 40): Room 1 is a water chamber or built water tank; Room 2 is a large hot room with a hypocaust floor; Room 3 is a smaller chamber to the southwest (it was possibly a tepid room); and to its east, Room 4 has benches on its west and north walls (added later) and was possibly a changing room (*apodyterium*). Room 1 has a circular opening in the middle of its floor, once closed probably by a metal plate, and was heated from below by the *praefurnium* (Fig. 41). The hypocaust floor in Room 2, excavated this year, turned out to be of rather haphazard construction, supported by irregularly-disposed *pili*. The bath house was probably first constructed not in the mid-Byzantine period (as supposed in 2016), but in the Seljuk period. It was adjusted and enlarged through Ottoman times. Finds in 2017 include: (1) the shoulders and neck broken from a lifesize naked marble statue of early imperial date with a neck pillar, sharp right-turn of the head, and drapery on the left shoulder (inv. 17-24), and (2) some remarkable fragments of moulded plaster decoration from the hot chamber, Room 2, from Seljuk times (inv. 17-97) (Fig. 43).

Documentation. A state plan was drawn of the excavated bath house and its trench (Jacob Anderson), and the drawing of the street-paving in the area north of the Sebasteion Propylon was completed (Lauren Aquilar).

3. CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION (Figs. 44-48)

Conservation, restoration, and site presentation projects were undertaken by separate

teams supervised by Thomas Kaefer, Gerhard Paul, and Trevor Proudfoot.

Frieze block display. The project to construct a new outdoor wall-display of the mask-and-garland frieze blocks from the South Agora, returned to Aphrodisias from Izmir, was begun on the west side of the square in front of the Aphrodisias Museum. About ten frieze blocks required repair and conservation before construction began. The foundations and the low wall to support the frieze blocks were built and three layers of frieze blocks were set in position. Further layers and a roof to protect the frieze blocks will be mounted in 2018.

Conservation work in Aphrodisias Museum. Travertine stone bases were installed under marble pieces returned from the Izmir Museum, now displayed in the Aphrodisias Museum: two animal-head consoles from the Hadrianic Baths (museum inv. 6819 and 6820), a tomb pediment with a bearded male portrait bust on an acanthus foot (museum inv. 6821), and the 'Mourning Women' Sarcophagus (museum inv. 6870) (Fig. 44).

Tetrapylon. The anastylosis of the Tetrapylon, undertaken by Kenan Erim between 1983 and 1990, is maintained periodically. In 2017, the east side of the structure was scaffolded, cleaned, pointed, and thoroughly checked (Figs. 45-46). Open joints and cracks between repairs and the marble of the ancient building were recorded, mapped, chiselled out, and filled using hydraulic lime-based mortars or cement-based mortars. The discoloration of some cast elements was treated with hand-painted colouring using pigments in a cement base. The west side of the Tetrapylon was treated in the same way in 2016. The work in 2017 was carried out by Trevor Proudfoot and Joanna Skwiercz.

Tetrapylon Street. Conservation work on the damaged and missing street slabs and drain covers of the street was continued in 2017 in the northern part of the street by Hikmet Apaydın and a team of four workers – in preparation for eventual use of the street by visitors. Broken and damaged paving slabs and drain-cover slabs were lifted, cleaned, drilled, doweled, glued, and put back in their original positions (Fig. 47). Areas where slabs were missing were cleaned out, lined with sand and geotextile, and pressed with a roller. During this work, a severely abraded marble head of a boy of the first century AD was found lodged between slabs in the surface of the street immediately north of the Sebasteion's Propylon, its features worn away by centuries of traffic (inv. 17-1).

Civil Basilica. In conjunction with continuing fieldwork in the South Agora, a new project was begun on the façade of the Civil Basilica funded by Mr Murat Ülker and pladis. The preliminary project in 2017 was designed to determine how much of the facade could be restored and how best Diocletian's Edict of Maximum Prices, which was inscribed on the panelling of the facade, might be presented. The front of the building was thoroughly cleaned and studied (Fig. 48). The surviving blocks of the facade (more than 350) were numbered with metal tags and moved, leaving in situ only those blocks that were in their fall positions. The planned restoration of the facade and a display system for the Price Edict were designed, and a full project was prepared.

4. PUBLICATION, DOCUMENTATION, RESEARCH (Figs. 49-53)

The program of detailed archaeological, architectural, and site recording begun in 1991 was supervised by Julia Lenaghan and Harry Mark. The goals remain to record, study, and publish the finds and building complexes uncovered in the excavations of Kenan Erim (1961-1990) and in succeeding years.

Buildings: archaeology and architecture. Documentation and publication projects were pursued on the following: Bouleuterion (Ursula Quatember), South Agora (Allison Kidd, Ben Russell, Andrew Wilson), Stadium (Katherine Welch, Andrew Leung), North Agora (Chris Ratté, Peter de Staebler), Tetrapylon Street excavations to 2015 (Alexander Sokolicek), Byzantine coins, artefacts, and architectural ornament (Hugh Jeffery) (Fig. 49), Sebasteion with its Temple and Propylon (Phil Stinson with Yasmeen El-Jayyousi) (Fig. 50), and Temple of Aphrodite and its fifth-century conversion into a church (James Coulton with Nefeli Piree Iliou). In the Temple-Church, rubble and blocks were taken out of the north-east chamber (*parekklesion*) in order to reveal and study its floor. The floor

was found to be made up of re-used panelled wall revetment. Middle Byzantine epistyle blocks stored in the south-east *parekklesion* were taken out with a crane for study and photography and then returned. Architectural study of the Sebasteion focused on the blocks of the second storey of the Propylon, which were laid out in sequence in the block field to the north of Sebasteion, and succeeded in finding the disposition of all the elements of the second-storey entablature and central pediment.

Prehistoric and Bronze Age material. In a project funded by INSTAP (Institute for Aegean Prehistory), the Bronze Age material that had been re-housed in a new depot (Yeni Stoa Depo) in 2016 was assessed for its future scientific and study value (Christopher Bachhuber). Some 1148 boxes of the re-housed prehistoric material were examined and compared to the prehistoric material stored in the main Aphrodisias Museum depots. Three Early Bronze Age contexts from the Acropolis Mound (houses destroyed in catastrophic conflagrations) were identified as being of particular interest for detailed study.

Ceramics. The ceramics excavated in the Tetrapylon Street and South Agora in 2017 were sorted and studied (Ulrike Outschar, Muradiye Öztaşkın with Deniz Burç). The material from the Street ranges in date from late Roman to Ottoman but with a marked concentration in the Beylik period. Some of the early layers in the South Agora excavation contained prehistoric and late Hellenistic-early Roman pottery finds. The silt filling under the medieval layers has some pure late Roman contexts, while the medieval layers have concentrations of Beylik and Classical Ottoman period finds.

Coins. The cataloguing of all excavation coins from recent years, begun in 2013, was pursued. Some 150 Greek, Roman, and Byzantine coins from 2008-2017 were catalogued and added to the coin database, including 34 coins from 2017 (Hüseyin Köker). The coins and other small finds were conserved by Federica Divita and Lucy Skinner with Büşra Arı and Özge Nur Yıldırım.

Environmental. Soil samples were taken from the Tetrapylon Street excavation (9) and from the South Agora pool (37), including samples from 17 test pits each 1 m² in the pool floor (Erica Rowan). The aim was to define aspects of plant and human life that developed in different parts of the pool as it filled up with silt and rubble deposits. Excavation of the bottom of the pool recovered 35 pieces of wood, 21 pinecones, and a few peach stones. Much of the wood had been partly burnt which aided its preservation. The wood was sampled for future testing of its different tree species.

Sculpture. Publication projects were pursued on the following groups of marble sculpture: Bouleuterion statues (Christopher Hallett), statues from the Sebasteion Propylon (Julia Lenaghan with Christian Niederhuber) (Fig. 51), late antique statues (Bert Smith), and sculpture from the South Agora (Josh Thomas). The new statuary finds from the South Agora excavations, described above, were recorded and studied. A large relief fragment with a young frontal male figure standing on an animal was recorded (inv. 17-114: a stray find from an old block field north of the Atrium House).

Inscriptions. Significant epigraphic finds included three fragments of Diocletian's Prices Edict, the first two from excavation in the lower layers of the pool's south side. (1) A large internal panel fragment (inv. 17-32, H: 43 cm) with parts of about 15 lines from the start of Chapter 19, On Clothing, giving prices for various kinds of cloak, tunic, and bed spread (Fig. 52). (2) The top left corner of a panel (inv. 17-40, H: 30 cm) with parts of two lines from Chapter 26, On Linen, that gave (lines 10-11) the price for the material of underclass clothing: ITEM EX LINO [*grosso ad usus rusticorum vel familiaricorum*], 'coarse linen for country workers and slaves'. (3) The top right corner of a panel, a stray find from behind the Niche Building on the Tetrapylon Street (inv. 17-31, H: 38.5 cm), that preserves the ends of six lines with only some price numerals preserved. A team of epigraphists supervised by Angelos Chaniotis (Florian Forster, Alexander Free, Martin Hallmannsecker, Giorgos Tsolakis) visited Aphrodisias in early September to study the graffiti on the marble perimeter of the South Agora pool.

Seminars. Research results were presented and discussed during the season at seminars on the Bouleuterion, the Stadium (Fig. 53), statues in the Aphrodisias Museum,

and the Aphrodisias regional survey.

Publications. A new monograph was published: N. de Chaisemartin and D. Theodorescu, *Aphrodisias VIII. Le Théâtre d'Aphrodisias: les structures scéniques*. Two further monographs are in press: (1) J. van Voorhis, *Aphrodisias IX. The Sculptor's Workshop*, and (2) E. Ögüş, *Aphrodisias X: The Columnar Sarcophagi*. And a third monograph is in advanced preparation: M. Berenfeld, *Aphrodisias XI: The Triconch House*.

STAFF 2017 (Fig. 54)

Archaeologists: Alis Altınel, Eda Doğa Aras, Christopher Bachhuber, Yağmur Başaran, Deniz Burç, Doğuş Coşar, James Coulton, Miriam S. Farooqi, Nathalie Defne Gier, Katherine Halcrow, Christopher Hallett, Ine Jacobs, Hugh Jeffery, Jella Karademir, Allison Kidd, Julia Lenaghan, Andrew Leung, Christian Niederhuber, Muradiye Öztaşkın, Ulrike Outschar, Nefeli Piree Iliou, Ursula Quatember, Christopher Ratté, Erica Rowan, Benjamin Russell, Anja Schwarz, Hannah Kate Simon, Roland Smith, Alexander Sokolicek, Serra Somersan, Peter De Staebler, Philip Stinson, Joshua Thomas, Katherine Welch, Andrew Wilson. *Anastylosis architects:* Thomas Kaefer, Gerhard Paul. *Architects:* Lauren Aguilar, Jacob Anderson, Yasmeen El-Jayyousi, Harry Mark, Kirk Webb. *Spouse and children:* Ingrid Gaitet, Giovanni Placidi, Victor Smith, Allegra Wilson, Claudia Wilson. *Conservators:* Federica Di Vita, Lucy Skinner, Büşra Arı, Özge Nur Yıldırım. *Epigraphists:* Angelos Chaniotis, Florian Forster, Alexander Free, Martin Hallmannsecker, Giorgos Tsolakis. *Marble conservators:* Trevor Proudfoot, Joanna Skwiercz. *Photographer:* Ian Cartwright. *Numismatist:* Hüseyin Köker.

SPONSORS 2017

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R. R.R. Smith
30 September 2017

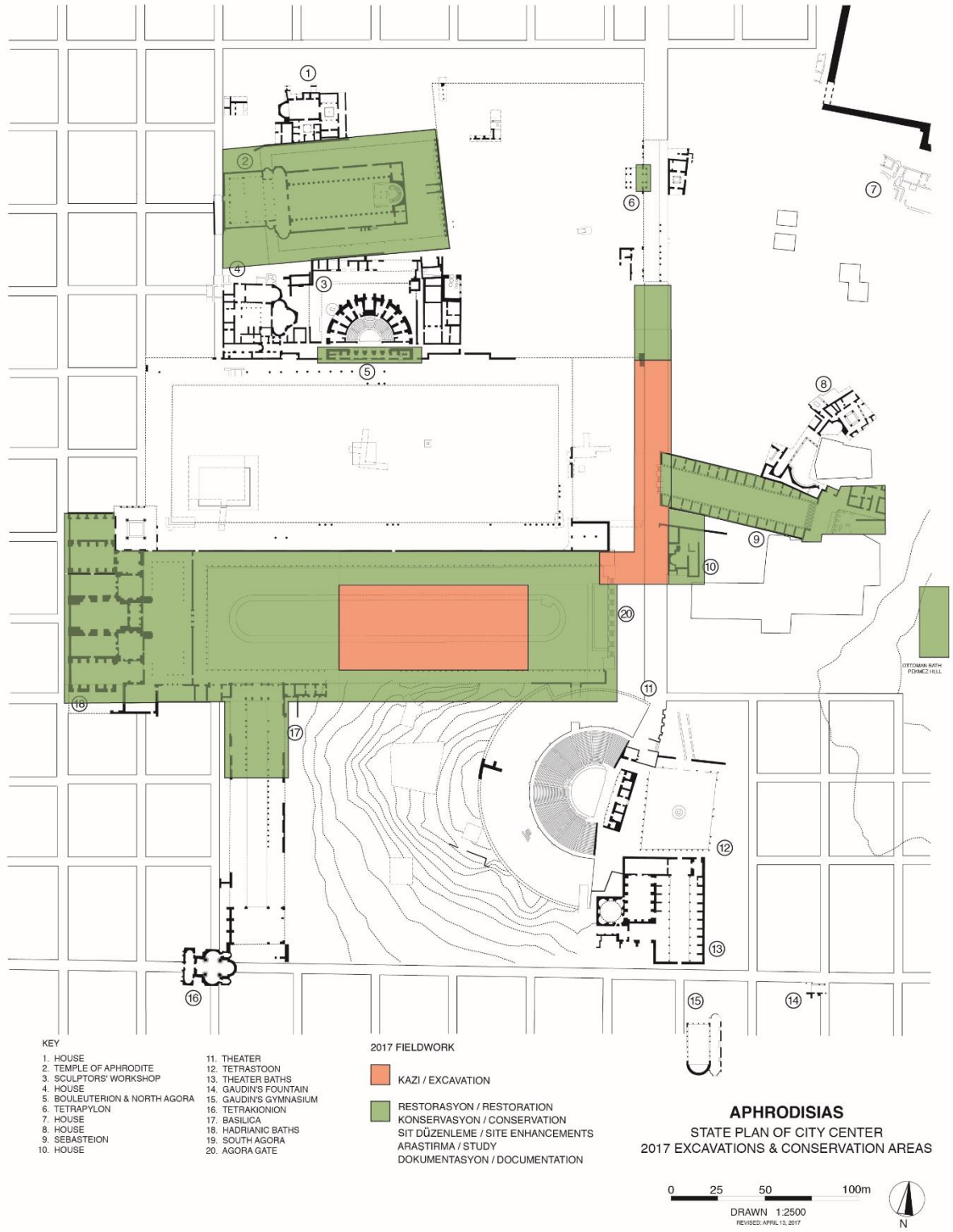


Fig. 1: Aphrodisias city centre plan, work areas in 2017.



Fig. 2: Drone view of Aphrodisias city centre from south-east, over Theatre and South Agora (2017).



Fig. 3: Drone view of Aphrodisias city centre from south-west, over Basilica, Hadrianic Bath, and South Agora (2017).

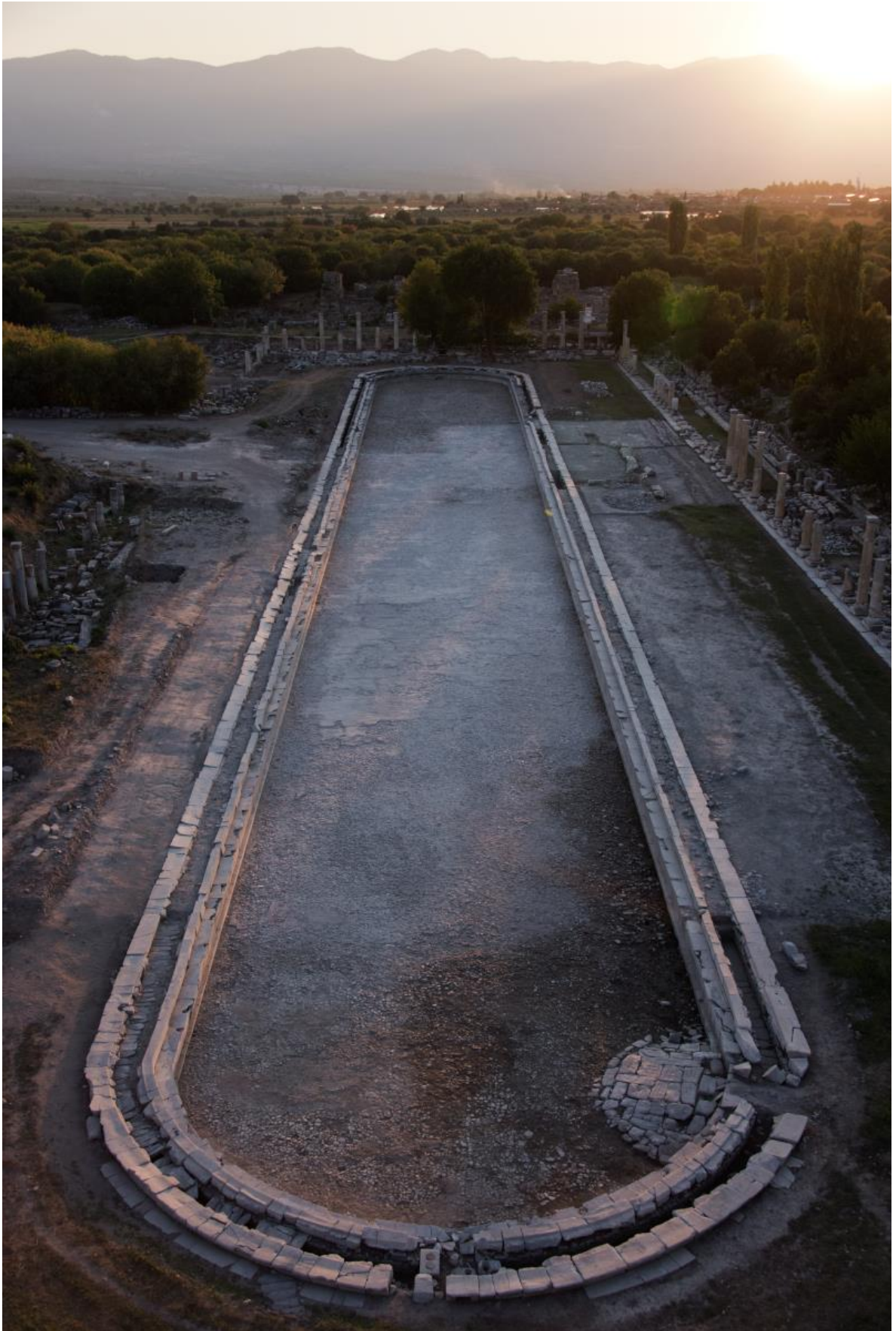


Fig. 4: Mica and Ahmet Ertegin South Agora Pool after excavation in August 2017.



Fig. 5: Steel ramp for removing excavated earth from pool (2017).

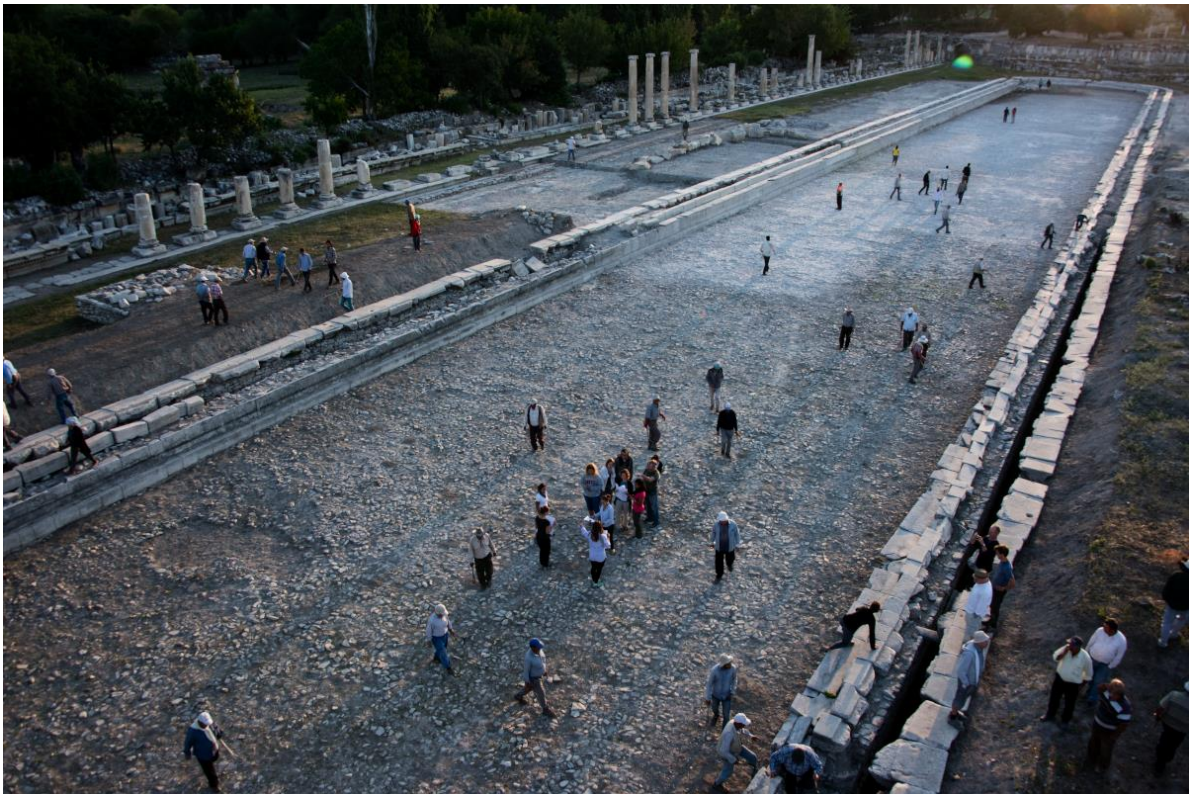


Fig. 6: Completed excavation of South Agora pool, showing character of pool floor (2017).



*Fig. 7: Earliest rubble dump layer on north side of pool, with portrait head, inv. 17-53, as found (2017).
See also Fig. 31.*



Fig. 8: Iron projectile weapons and knife blades from bottom of South Agora pool (2017).



Fig. 9 A-B: State plan (A) and drone photo (B) of South Agora complex (2017).



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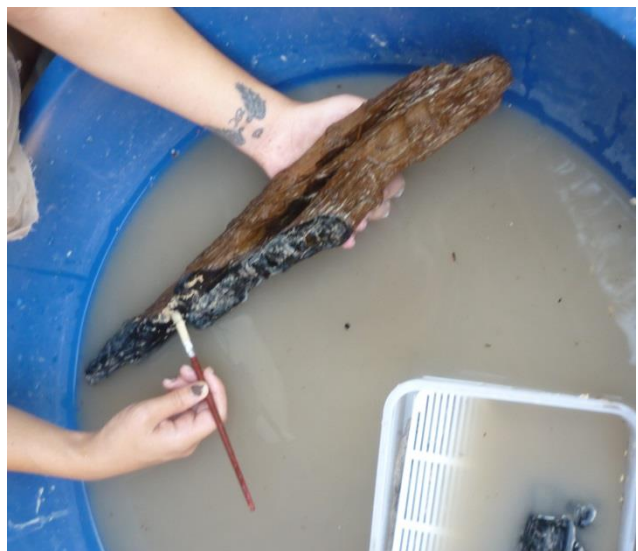
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Figs. 10-17: Finds from South Agora pool in 2017. Bronze reliquary crosses (10), gold-glass medallion (12), glass pendant (13), silver pendant (14), lead monogram seal (15), folded lead amulets (16), burnt wood (17). The bronze reliquary cross, Fig. 11, was an earlier find, newly conserved in 2017.



Fig. 18: Eros pilaster capital from north side of South Agora pool (inv. 17-29).



Fig. 19: Find context of Eros pilaster capital in rubble layer on north side of pool (2017).



Fig. 20: Preliminary reconstruction of coloured marble revetment scheme of back wall of north stoa in South Agora, composed of fragments found dumped into north side of pool (2017).



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Figs. 21-28: Marble finds from pool. Naked male torso (inv. 17-9) (21), foot wearing Greek sandal (inv. 17-61) (22), head of female divinity (inv. 17-60) (23), hand with kantharos (inv. 17-67) (24), orb held by two fingers (inv. 17-59) (25), votive plaque with eyes (inv. 17-63) (26), relief with pine tree (inv. 17-47) (27), and relief with head of barbarian(?) (inv. 17-49) (28).

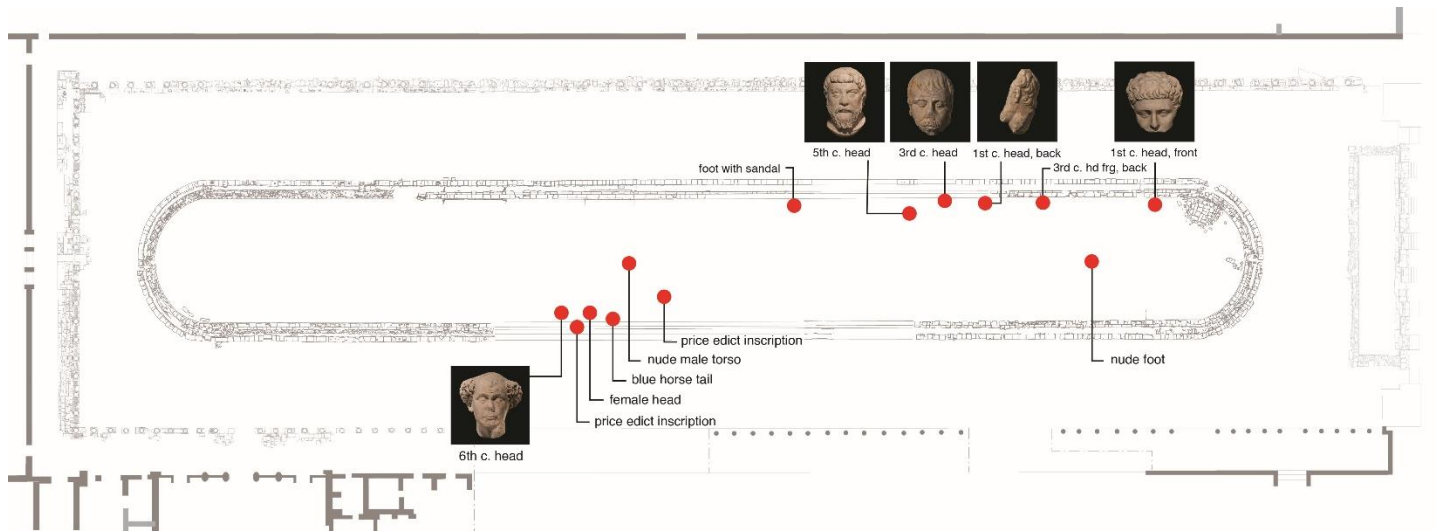


Fig. 29: Find-places of major statuary and inscriptions in South Agora pool (2017).

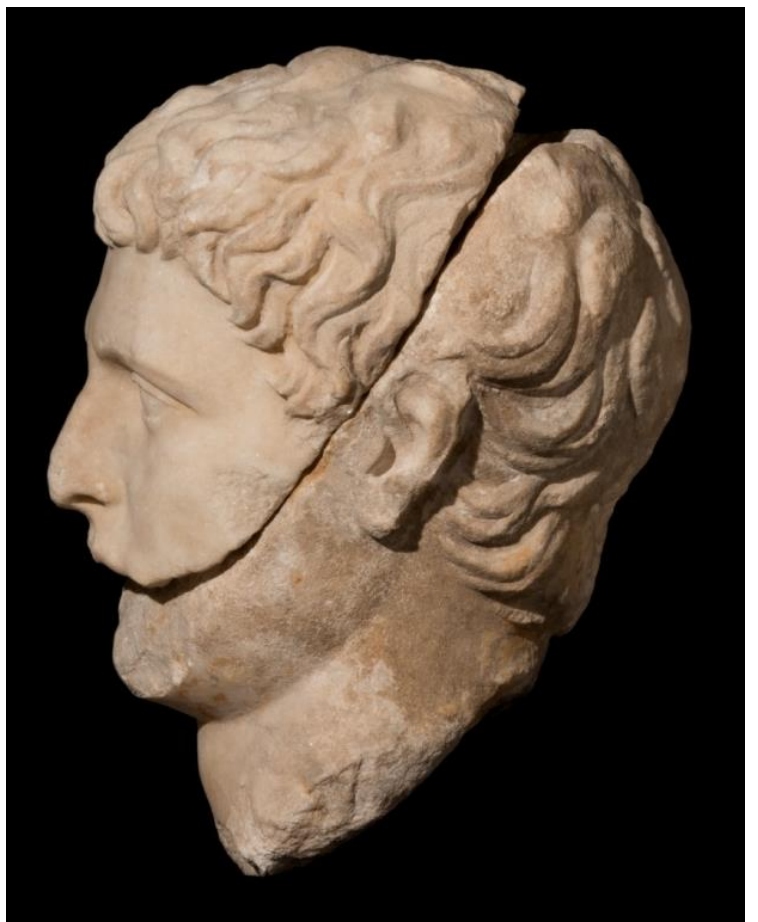


Fig. 30A-B: Front (inv. 16-52) and back (inv. 17-33) of youthful male Julio-Claudian portrait, found on north side of South Agora pool (2017). The face was found in 2016, the back of the head nearby in 2017. See find-plan above, Fig. 29.

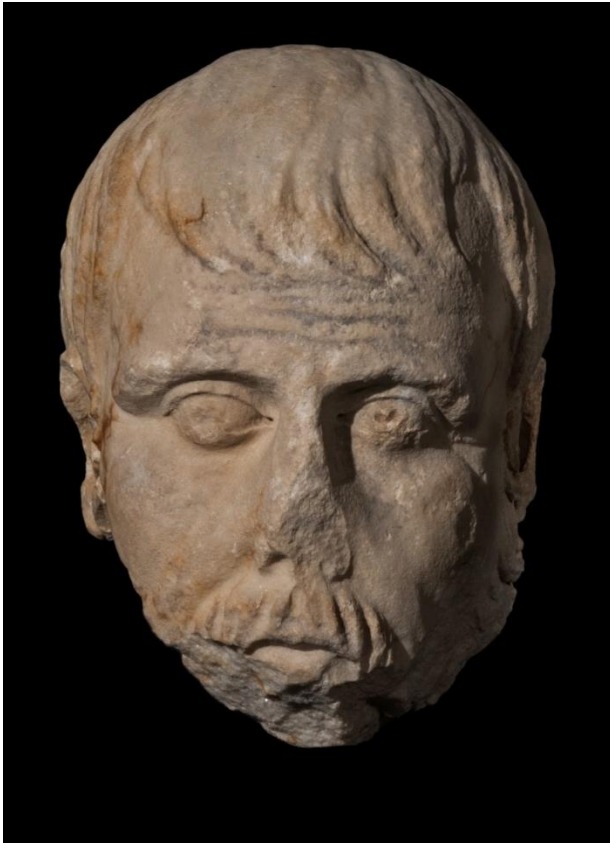


Fig. 31: Third-century bearded portrait head (inv. 17-53). Fig: 32: Find-context of late antique portrait head (inv. 17-59). Both found on north side of South Agora pool (2017).

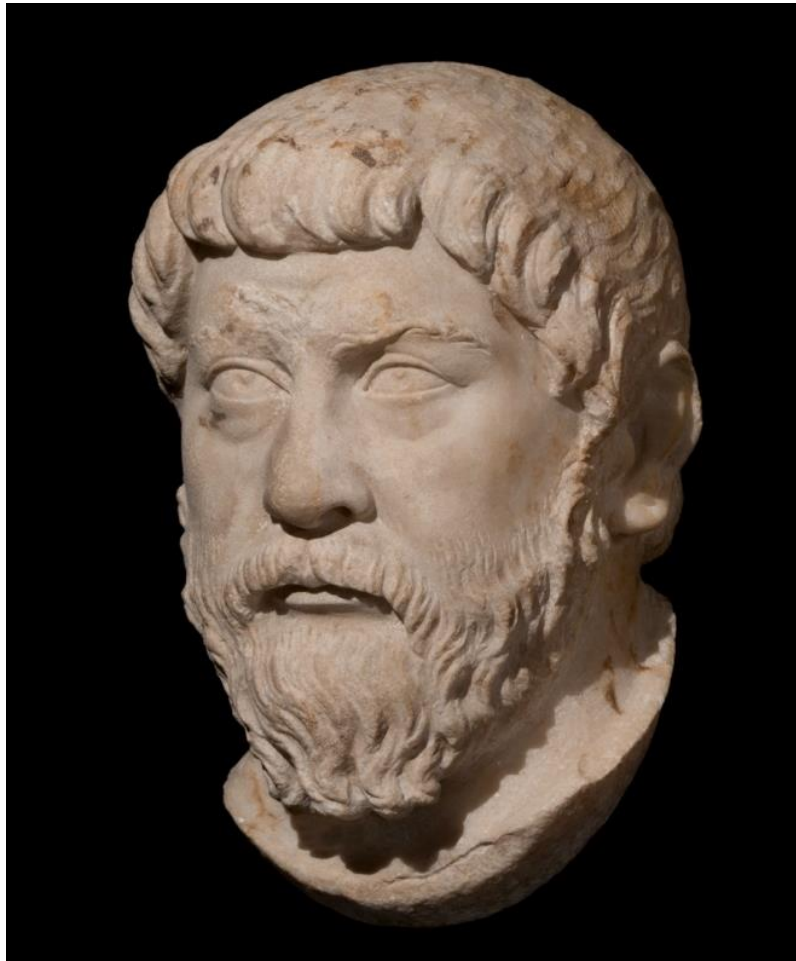


Fig. 33: Bearded male portrait head of c. AD 400 (inv. 17-59). See above, Fig. 32, for find context.



Fig. 34: Male portrait head with stubble beard of c. AD 500 (inv. 17-70), as found at south side of pool (2017).



Figs. 35-37: Part of horse's tail of blue-grey marble (inv. 17-36), found on south side of pool and doweled to horse from Troilos and Achilles group (inv. 70-569) in Aphrodisias Museum (2017).



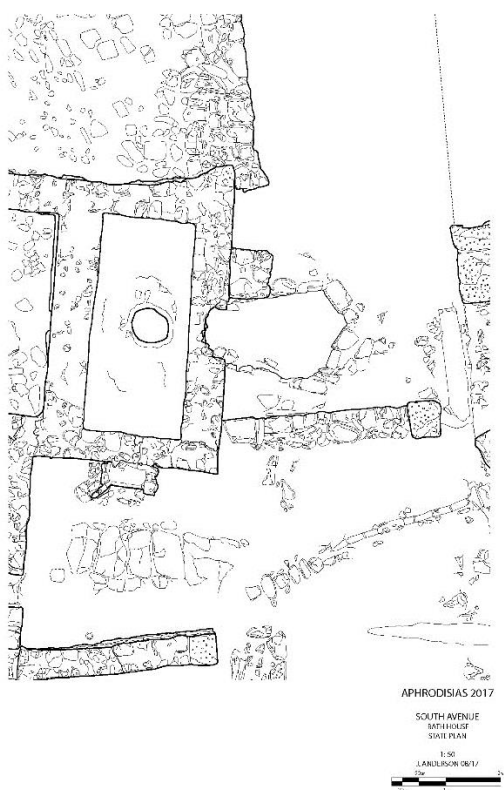
Fig. 38: Tetrapylon Street. Seljuk bath house and Trench Nave 17.1 in foreground, seen from south (2017).



Fig. 39: Tetrapylon Street. Seljuk bath house in foreground, Sebasteion Propylon in background, seen from south (2017).



Fig. 40: Tetrapylon Street. Seljuk bath house seen from above, north at top of picture (2017).



Figs. 41-42: State plan of praefurnium of bath house and fragment of late antique mosaic.



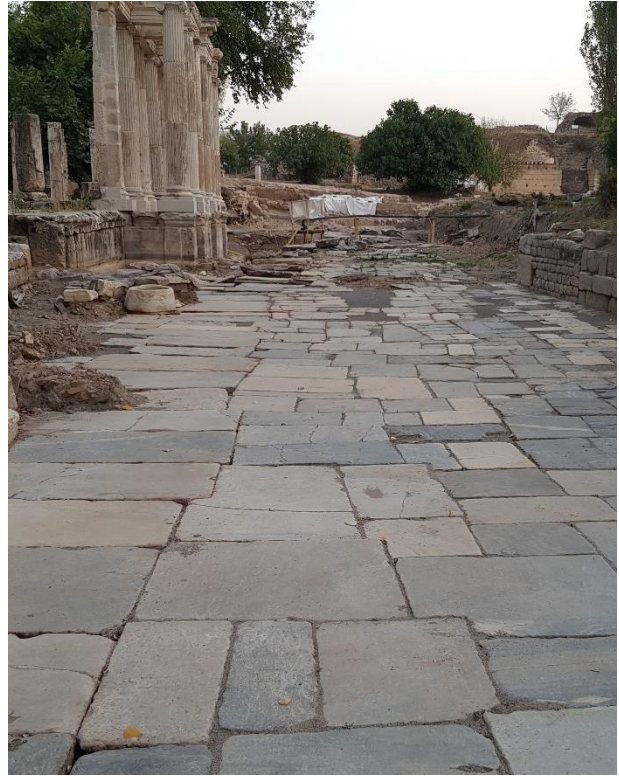
Fig. 43: Fragments of moulded plaster decoration from hot chamber (Room 2) in bath house, of Seljuk period (inv. 17-97).



Fig. 44: Installation of new stone supports by Trevor Proudfoot under sarcophagus in Aphrodisias Museum (2017).



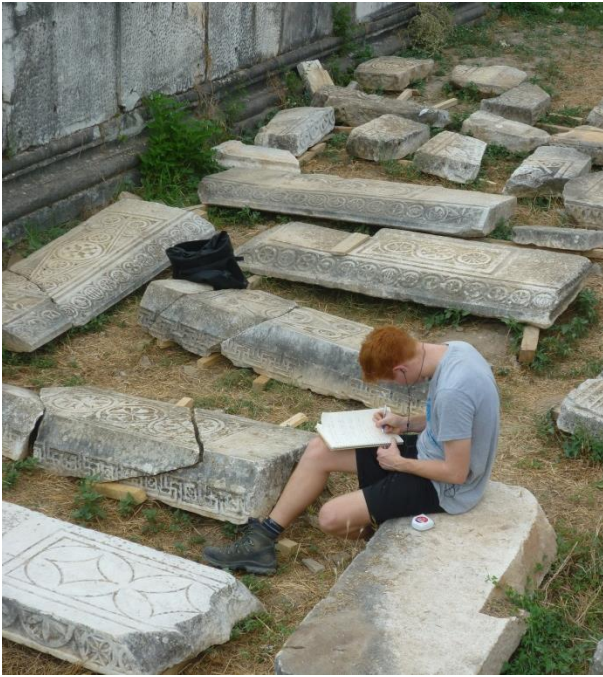
Fig. 45: Scaffolding and conservation work on east side of Tetrapylon (2017).



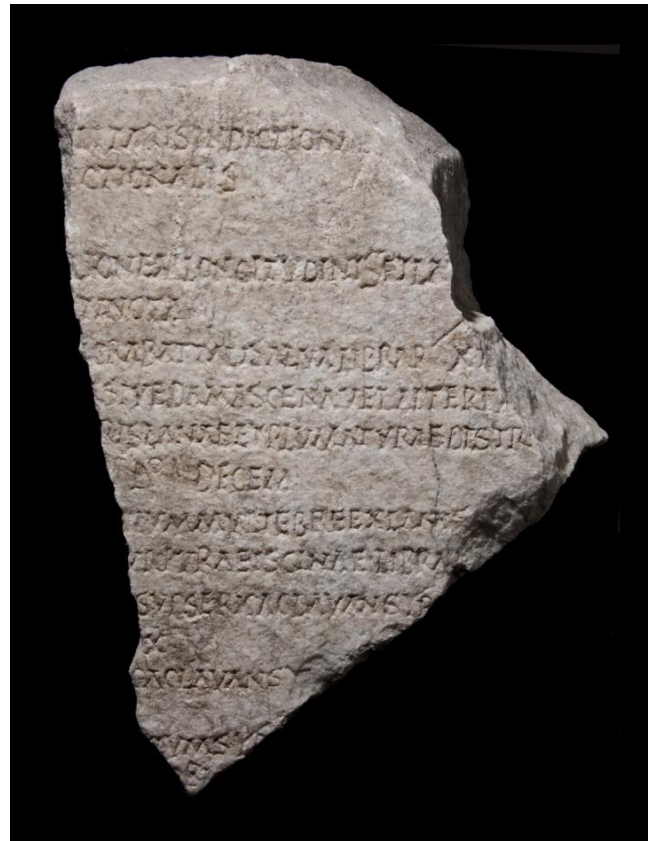
*Fig. 46: Joanna Skwierz of Cliveden Conservation restoring spiral flutes of column on east side of Tetrasyon.
Fig. 47: Restored paving slabs of late antique street (2017).*



Fig. 48: Front of Basilica facing South Agora, cleaned and prepared for new restoration project funded by Mr Murat Ülker and pladis (2017).



Figs. 49-50: Study of middle Byzantine epistyles from Church (Hugh Jeffery), and of second-storey pediment of Propylon of Sebasteion (Phil Stinson) (2017).



Figs. 51: Conservation of marble foot from Propylon (Lucy Skinner). Fig. 52: New fragment of Chapter 19, on Clothing, from Diocletian's Price Edict (inv. 17-32) (2017).



Fig. 53: Seminar in Stadium, given by Professor Katherine Welch (2017).



Fig. 54: Students and colleagues from Aphrodisias team, 2017.